

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing a recombinant filamentous Actinomycete Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora bacterium, said method comprising:

providing a filamentous Actinomycete Streptomyces or a Saccharopolyspora bacterium, said filamentous Actinomycete Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora bacterium lacking detectable endogenous SsgA, with the capability of having or expressing heterologous SsgA, which heterologous SsgA, in *Streptomyces griseus*, is encoded by an ssgA gene an expressible polynucleotide encoding a heterologous SsgA comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 :

1 ATGCGCGAGTCGGTTCAAGCAGAGGTATGATGAGCTTCCTCGTCTCCGA
51 GGAGCTCTCGTCCGTATTCCGGTGGAGCTCCGATACGAGGTGGGGATC
101 CGTATGCCATCCGGATGACGTTCCACCTTCCCGCGATGGCCCTGTGACC
151 TGGGCCTTCGGCCCGAGCTGCTGGACGGGCTCAACAGCCCCGAGCGG
201 CGACGGCGATGTGCACATCGGCCCCGACCGAGCCCCGAGGGCCTCGGAGATG
251 TCCACATCCGGCTCCAGGTGGCGCGGACCGTGGCTGTTCCGGGGGG
301 ACGGCACCGCTGGTGGCGTTCCGACCGGACGGACAAGCTCGTGCCGCT
351 CGGCCAGGAGCACACGCTGGTGACTTCGACGGAACCTGGAGGACGCAC
401 TGGGCCGCATCCTCGCCGAGGAGCAGAACGCCGGCTGA (SEQ ID NO: 1).

2. Canceled.

3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said heterologous SsgA is provided by providing the expressible polynucleotide comprises transfecting or transforming said filamentous Actinomycete Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora bacterium with DNA the expressible polynucleotide encoding said the heterologous SsgA.

4-7. Canceled.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein said DNA expressible polynucleotide is integrated into the genome of the ~~filamentous Actinomycete Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora~~ bacterium.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein said DNA expressible polynucleotide is part of an episomal element.

10. Canceled.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein expression of said SsgA ~~the expressible polynucleotide~~ is inducible or repressible with a signal.

12-13. Canceled.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein said ~~filamentous Actinomycete Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora~~ bacterium produces a useful product.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein said useful product is an antibiotic.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein said useful product is a protein.

17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein said protein is heterologous to said ~~filamentous Actinomycete Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora~~ bacterium.

18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein said protein is expressed from a vector encoding said protein present in said ~~filamentous Actinomycete Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora~~ bacterium.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said protein is secreted by said ~~filamentous Actinomycete Streptomyces or Saccharopolyspora~~ bacterium.

20-28. Canceled.

29. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~ssgA gene expressible polynucleotide encodes a protein comprising comprises~~ SEQ ID NO: 3 1.

30. (Previously presented) A method for producing a recombinant Actinomycete bacterium, said method comprising:

transforming an Actinomycete bacterium lacking a detectable endogenous SsgA with a means for enhancing septation and fragmentation in a culture of the Actinomycete bacterium;

wherein the Actinomycete bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Streptomyces coelicolor*, *Streptomyces lividans*, *Streptomyces clavuligerus* and *Saccharopolyspora erythraea*.

31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the means for enhancing septation and fragmentation comprises SEQ ID NO: 1.

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the means for enhancing septation and fragmentation encodes a protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.

33. (Currently amended) A method for producing a recombinant Actinomycete bacterium, said method comprising:

transforming an Actinomycete bacterium lacking a detectable endogenous SsgA with a nucleic acid encoding a heterologous SsgA comprising SEQ ID NO: 3;

wherein the Actinomycete bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Streptomyces coelicolor*, *Streptomyces lividans*, *Streptomyces clavuligerus* and *Saccharopolyspora erythraea*.

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34. Canceled.